

PRESS RELEASE

April 2024 – immediate release

dance + interdisciplinary

Official World Premiere

Je ne vais pas inonder la mer : An elegiac dance piece which inundates all five senses

— Sonia Bustos

May 15th - 18th 2024

After its premiere in 2021, in the midst of a pandemic, in front of a small audience of eleven, *Je ne vais pas inonder la mer* returns this time in all its splendor. In this convention-defying solo, Sonia Bustos merges with her musicians in a captivating choreography.



© David Wong

About the performance

“My mother left in the presence of the first full moon of fall.
My grandmother left with the last jacaranda flowers of spring.”

Je ne vais pas inonder la mer is a danced elegy that explores the role our relationship with mothers and our heritage play in the construction of femininity. This solo piece by Mexican choreographer and performer **Sonia Bustos**, draws from her personal history and search for identity, tinged with the pain of grieving her mother and grandmother. At the crossroads of questions on feminine condition, lineage, and memory, the artist explores the phenomena of reminiscence through theatrical dance, awakening all five senses. Food, music, and an evocation of social norms, beliefs and rituals inspire and inform this visceral creation.

The title refers to the therapeutic words that were spoken to Bustos during the grieving process for her mother, who passed away when Sonia was 20 years old : “You are not going to flood the sea with your tears.” Which is to say, there is no shame in weeping. It is an inevitable, indeed necessary, part of grieving.

This solo show which, as well as evoking pain and sadness, incorporates a joyful celebration of the lives of two formidable women, is also part of Bustos’s deeply personal grieving process. At the same time, it will touch the heart – and, in fact, all five senses – of anybody who has ever suffered, or fears suffering, the loss of loved ones.

In immersing herself in memories of her maternal forebears, Bustos’s Mexican heritage emerges as a vital presence. As Bustos says; “The nature of my relationship with my mother and grandmother naturally sparked lots of Mexican codes: music, food and rituals.”

Unusual for a dance show, Bustos worked with the Olfactory Consultant, perfumer and interdisciplinary artist Dana El Marsi, in her commitment to create a completely sensory experience.

“I wanted to create a project that really played into our five senses,” says Bustos, “because our senses are so intricately linked to how we create memories.”

Of those five senses, our organs of sight and hearing will be inundated with Bustos’s vivid and emotionally visceral movement, and by the traditional, often festive music played live by the four onstage musicians.

“I evoke two types of traditional music in Mexico: Canto Cardenche and Son Jarocho,” Bustos explains. “Son Jarocho is from the South-East of Mexico and it’s music that brings people together. In villages, there’s lots of this type of music in festivities, whether it’s a party or a funeral. It’s something that’s part of the social fabric of Mexican communities. To me, it tells the story of how we accompany each other and how we live through things together, how we support each other.” (Two of the musicians, Eloisa Reséndiz and Valeria De Marre, will be offering a workshop on Son Jarocho on May 8.)

As for our senses of touch, smell and taste, Bustos and El Marsi draw us into their world through elements such as the scent of food, flowers and *café olla*, a spiced Mexican coffee which Bustos serves to the audience in a climactic ritual of remembrance and togetherness.

“Smell is one of the senses I associate the most with my mother and grandmother. It was really important to me that I include this in the piece. It creates an ambiance of recollection and it’s a connecting thread throughout the piece.”

As personal as Bustos’s show is, *Je ne vais pas inonder la mer* also has elements of the political and social engagement that has been a constant in her work. In her latest, Bustos pays tribute to the tenacity and determination with which her mother and grandmother fought for their freedom, their happiness and their place amidst the highly patriarchal attitudes that prevailed in Mexico City.

PUBLIC+ Activities

→ **Vibrotactile Pillows**

Vibrotactile pillows will be available for audience members to access the sound production as direct vibrations. Each pillow is outfitted with a transducer that produces both the sound and the accompanying vibration. A transducer is an electronic device that converts energy from one form to another thus these pillows convert the energy of the sound into an enhanced vibrational experience. The pillows are flexible to hold in your arms, on your back, under your feet or wherever they feel most comfortable to the individual.

* Pillows are available in limited quantities, with priority given to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Available for each performance.

→ **Saturday May 18th @ 2pm : Childcare available during the performance for children aged 3 to 8. Registration required.**

** Offered free or charge to ticket holders for the May 18th performance at 2 p.m. **
Register here : <https://forms.gle/GWnR3TE5fB8yHMG97>

Artist Sergio Barrenechea will offer a music workshop to children aged 3 to 8 registered for childcare during the performance on Saturday, May 18th. A percussionist by trade, Sergio offers children a participatory workshop in which he introduces them to rhythms, countries and new instruments that resonate with Sonia Bustos's performance.

→ **Wednesday May 8th @ 7pm : Introductory workshop to traditional dance from southeastern Mexico (podorythmy)**

** The workshop price includes a ticket for the show Je ne vais pas inonder la mer by Mexican artist Sonia Bustos on the date of your choice (May 15, 16, 17, 18 at 7:30pm and May 18 at 2pm). **

Introductory workshop to traditional dance from southeast Mexico (podorythmy) with Eloisa Reséndiz and Valeria De Marre. The aim of this workshop is to develop the basic rhythms of Son Jarocho.

Come and discover this percussive dance, which is part of the community festival called Fandango!

Price : 22\$

Duration : 1h30

Age: 16+ years old

Languages : French + Spanish

Register here : <https://m-a-i.tuxedobillet.com/main/initiation-danse-traditionnelle>

About Sonia Bustos

Performing artist of Mexican origin, based in Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal). Her interests are strongly linked to socio-political engagement and the recognition of the performer's creative work. Sonia's artistic research focuses on feminist perspectives, the third root in Latin America, memory, theatricality and sharing with the public. Constant elements of her work are: composition based on the state of the body she carries as a performer-creator, the use of voice/text, the presence of memory-bearing objects and non-danced approaches to the body (e.g. embroidery). Sonia has performed for Nadère arts vivants, Les Sœurs Schmutt, Danza Contemporánea Universitaria and the interdisciplinary group GKO. She is the interpreter-creator of Intérieur brut, Je ne vais pas inonder la mer, as well as the triptych composed by Luz : Dentelle, Luz : Terre and Luz : Echo (in progress). Sonia has received support for her projects from: FONCA

(Mexico), CAC, CALQ, CAM, M.A.I., CCOV, La Serre, Studio 303, Circuit-Est/Nyata-Nyata and Accès Culture Montréal. Her creations have been programmed at: Tangente, M.A.I., the Maisons de la Culture de Montréal network, as well as the OFFTA and Phénomèna festivals. She holds a Master's degree in dance from UQAM and a Bachelor's degree in theater from UNAM.

CREDITS

Choreographer and Performer: Sonia Bustos

Musicians: Eloisa Reséndiz, Valeria De Marre, Charles Cantin and Víctor Zamudio

Artistic Advisor: Angélique Willkie

Rehearsal Director: Neil Sochasky

Dramaturg: Ilya Krouglikov

Sound Design: Aurélien Tomasi

Composers: Maxime Ethier and Aurélien Tomasi

Olfactory Consultant: Dana El Marsi

Lighting Design and Technical Direction: Catherine FP

Project Coordination: Constance Aubry

Since the early stages of creation, this project has received support from Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Conseil des arts de Montréal and MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels). It also benefited from residencies at: Centre de Création O Vertigo, Studio 303, Circuit-Est/Nyata-Nyata, Département de Danse de l'UQÀM, and Maisons de la culture Plateau-Mont-Royal, Notre-Dame-des-Grâces and Janine Sutto.

In brief //

WHAT?

Je ne vais pas inonder la mer by Sonia Bustos

WHEN?

May 15th -18th, 2024

DURATION

60 minutes

WHERE?

MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) 3680, rue Jeanne-Mance, Montréal

TICKETING

Regular | 28 \$

Reduced | 22 \$ – seniors (65 years old and over) & students: upon presentation of a valid

piece of ID. This discount applies to one (1) person and is not cumulative.

Saturday Special | 20 \$

Juniors and groups | 16 \$ – 14 years old and under, or groups of ten (10) and more.

About the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)

Founded in 1999, MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) is a non-profit organization that supports the development, creation, presentation and promotion of intercultural arts for a variety of audiences. MAI's programming promotes hybrid and innovative practices in dance, theatre, visual arts, speech arts, performance, music and arts, while building bridges between artists and local communities through its [Public +](#) program.

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